

MILLS WOULD FORCE HIGHER TAX ON BONDS

Senator's Bill Seeks Levy on Market Value, With a Yearly Rate.

CHANGE IN SECURED DEBT LAW ASSAILED

ALBANY, April 8.—Senator Ogden L. Mills, Republican, of New York, introduced a bill to-day putting an annual tax on secured debts, which, it is said, will be the one to go through the Legislature and be signed by the Governor in the effort to increase indirect revenues about \$5,000,000.

Under the Mills bill bonds would be taxed according to their market value. Secured debts which have been filed with the comptroller and which the registration tax has been paid are to pay an annual tax of one and one-half mills. Secured debts not filed and which have not paid the registration tax are to be taxed at the rate of two mills on a dollar.

If secured debts are due in five years or less the tax for registration is to be two-tenths of a mill on face value for each year or fraction of a year before the debt becomes due. If the debt runs for more than five years after the date of registration the registration tax is to be one-half of one per cent. of the face value of such secured debt.

Amendment Is Assailed.
The Talmage amendment to the secured debt law was attacked at a hearing to-day before the Senate Taxation Committee as a direct blow to the property of the State, a huge joker, supported by the tax payers, and a measure which would decrease the revenues of the State.

The bill would impose an annual tax of two mills on secured debts, which were exempted from further taxation by the payment of a five mill registration fee under the terms of the secured debt law passed during the Dix administration.

A. C. Pylefield, representing the New York Tax Reform Association, made the chief argument against the changes in the law.

"The present secured debt law," he said, "has yielded an average of \$1,000,000 annually, mostly from the State of New York, and has not reduced the aggregate personal property assessment. It can be made to yield considerably more by amendment by the Legislature last year."

"The present secured debt law is specific, payment is evidenced by record, and it is taxed to the State. Many bonds thus stamped pass out of the State and others are stamped in their place by the owners to the gain of the State."

Open to Extension.
"An annual tax would apply only to bonds had on assessment day, and would be open to evasion as much as the ordinary property tax."

"The present law invites wealthy citizens from other States to make their residence here, thus increasing the demand for high priced real estate in the cities and also for suburban estates and ultimately bringing additional property under the inheritance tax."

"The present law applies to the securities owned by corporations. The Talmage bill exempts all corporations, but not individual investors. That bill also repeals the present secured debt law, so that the exemption of corporations will permit them as formerly to offset their bonded and other debt against securities, and also against the holdings of shares in corporations of other States, which are made taxable by this bill, when held by individuals. This discrimination naturally favors all holding companies."

"The Talmage bill establishes a listing system, which has always been strongly opposed in this State, and which has been denounced by commissioners of other States as merely a school of perjury."

"The Talmage bill makes taxable at each valuation all securities held in corporations incorporated under the laws of other States, whether or not these shares pay dividends. This is contrary to the taxation in New York State which exempts all shares (domestic and foreign) in the hands of the stockholders on the just theory that they are only certificates of ownership in property that is taxed where located, thus reducing dividends, and that any additional tax on the share is double taxation."

He declared that the bill would require a voluntary listing of \$500,000,000 to get the same revenue as the present tax.

Accuses Realty Men.
E. J. Pay, counsel to the Bankers Trust Company, declared the bill was prepared by real estate interests only. He said the bill was a measure to tax New York in a confused state and he said the hope for New York state would be the appointment of a tax commission to revise and put the taxation on a sound basis as the banking laws have been placed by the recent revision. He said there is a joker in the bill concerning mortgages.

"Notice how carefully these real estate men have left out a tax on mortgages," he said.

Although he represented a company which is exempt under the bill, he declared the measure was designed to impose to the property of New York. He advocated a direct tax as an emergency measure until such time as would permit the use of the State's credit in the confidence of the tax laws of the State. He accused the real estate men of "trying to put something over on the opponents of the bill by slipping in this hearing without notification."

Mr. Pylefield declared after the hearing his belief that the Talmage measure is considered nothing but a joke by the Senate committee, and that the measure will be dropped in this hearing without notification.

Edward R. Finch, representing the Real Estate Association of New York, led those in favor of the bill. He declared that the bill would yield \$5,000,000 more than the present law. He said he "understood" John H. Schmitt is in favor of the bill. When he mentioned companies he said were in favor of the measure Mr. Finch said the only one he knew was the Title Guaranty and Trust Company, and that it is a real estate trust company.

It was said there would probably be a hearing on the Mills bill next week. Other speakers in favor of the bill were Alfred E. Holscomb, treasurer of the National Tax Association, and tax attorneys for the American Telephone and Telegraph Company; Don Sides, of the Chamber of Commerce; William H. Emory, Rochester Real Estate Association; William H. Sills, Erie Board of Trade; Horatio and M. Moreau, Jr., of the Real Estate Association of New York City.

MONEY TO LOAN ON BOND AND MORTGAGE

LAWYERS MORTGAGE CO.
RICHARD M. HURD, President
Capital, Surplus & P. \$5,000,000
59 Liberty St., N.Y. 184 Montague St., Bklyn.

\$1,000,000 CAMPAIGN FOR BELGIAN RELIEF

Committee Hopes to Raise Sum in Ten Days to Perfect Plans at Dinner.

The Belgian American Relief and Unemployment Fund, an organization having the object of stimulating contributions to the various relief funds, has announced a \$1,000,000 campaign. The details of it are to be disclosed at a dinner at the Plaza on Monday night, the cost of which has been put at \$100,000. The fund is being organized by the Chamber of Commerce, and the others who are directing the fund hope to have as a result of this campaign \$1,000,000, which they can turn over to the Belgian Relief Fund, the Committee of Mercy, the Vacation War Relief Committee and the Mayor's Committee on Unemployment.

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CITY MUST SHOW DIRECT TAX, PRENDERGAST SPLITS WITH MAYOR

Mayor and City Officials Hear G. O. P. Must Make Showing in 1916.

ALBANY, April 8.—Mayor Mitchell Combs, Incumbent, President of the Board of Aldermen McAneny and other city officials were told by Republican State leaders to-day that there would be a direct tax of about \$15,000,000.

Some of the legislative chiefs insisted that this tax might run up to \$20,000,000, so that a good showing can be made by the Republican State organization in 1916, when it must go before the people for support.

The leaders said that they would not lessen the direct State tax this year if it means merely postponing payment of State debts until next year and a consequent larger direct tax in 1916, when not only a State, but a national campaign is on.

Those leaders are paying no attention to suggestions from unbiased financial experts that if the same economy and prudence exercised in the Glynn administration had been continued, a year's direct tax only to pay the \$9,000,000 contributions to the sinking funds would be needed this year.

Appropriations to Be Made.
The city officials were told that the appropriations to be made by the Legislature will be:

Annual appropriation bill, \$31,000,000; extra construction State hospitals, \$1,000,000; sinking fund requirements, \$1,000,000; direct appropriation to complete canal, \$4,000,000; special appropriations yet to be made, \$1,000,000; special appropriations already made, \$7,000,000.

The annual appropriation bill as passed by the Assembly calls for \$32,000,000, but the Senate expects to cut it a million.

Those in the conference with the city officials were Republican Leader Elton B. Brown, Senator Sage, Chairman MacDonald, of the Finance Ways and Means Committee, Deputy State Comptroller James A. Wendell, the financial expert of that department, State Engineer William H. Schmitt, and J. Morris of the State Highways Department, the auditor of that department, Stephen Gilbert.

The conference lasted for nearly two hours. The suggestions made by the city officials with a view to aiding the financial stringency of the State Treasury were not taken into consideration by the legislators familiar with the situation here.

As a matter of fact they were "pooled" in the city of New York, where the city officials, and the conference will not result in any decrease in the burden of the direct tax which New York city must bear for the expense of State government.

Work for Minimum Tax.
"I think the New York city officials realize that we are trying to do our best to have a minimum direct tax," declared Senator Page after the conference.

It seems apparent that the legislative leaders figure on at least a \$10,000,000 direct tax," said Comptroller Prendergast.

Mayor Mitchell and President McAneny were not inclined to discuss the deliberations of the conference, but gave the impression that their mission had been to deliver the city to the State.

The New York city officials were Gov. Whitman's guests at the Executive Mansion at 1 o'clock, and left for New York on the 10 o'clock train.

After leaving for New York Mayor Mitchell and President McAneny said that in view of the fact that the appropriation bill for the year 1916 carries about \$41,000,000 of appropriations, a direct tax in final form, the question of a direct tax could not be intelligently discussed until the State's financial situation would probably come to Albany next week to look into the matter further.

PRENDERGAST FAVORS USE OF SINKING FUND
Says State Should Be Permitted to Help That Way.

ALBANY, April 8.—Comptroller Prendergast of New York, who came to Albany with Mayor Mitchell and President McAneny of the Board of Aldermen to discuss the question of the direct tax, was convinced after a conference with Republican leaders here that his colleagues in the city government are all wrong.

He is now of the opinion that the war horses of his party are right in their contention and that all the others who have been discussing the situation from the other point are in the wrong. He said to-night:

"I believe that all our city representatives who attended the conference are now aware of what I already knew, namely, that the financial leaders of the State Legislature are men of great ability and are making most earnest and sincere efforts for retrenchment and economy in State affairs."

"I think that a similar zeal for economy, is practiced by our own people in New York, would make our own local situation far less critical than it is to-day."

"Some of our city statesmen through the columns of the city press have tried to create the impression that the State administration is indulging in a riot of extravagance which can only be curbed by our local brand of superior intelligence and loftier civic righteousness."

"I am satisfied that the glimpse which we have had into the work now being done here to safeguard the State from financial disaster is a complete answer to those attacks."

"What is your view as to the possible use of the State sinking fund surplus to relieve the State of the burden of the direct tax?"

"My suggestion relative to State sinking funds was that a constitutional amendment be secured to permit the State to borrow from sinking funds in a way similar to our New York city general fund bond plan, but that instead of the proceeds of these bonds being used for current expenses they be devoted to the completion of the kind of improvement which the sinking fund represents, either for canals or for highways."

Suggestion and Facts.
The suggestion as applied to canal improvement would be made clear by the following facts:

"First—The canal debt sinking funds now hold \$25,317,503.81 in excess of their actuarial requirements, and this does not take into account the revenue which these sinking funds receive this year from their investments."

"Second—This excess, under the laws existing when the bonds were sold, is pledged to these sinking funds. It cannot be taken out without leaving an equivalent asset behind, such as the type of bond I suggest on the parallel of our city general fund bonds."

"Third—State cannot now legally incur a debt represented by a borrowing on long term bonds without a referendum."

"Fourth—If the State Legislature by constitutional amendment was granted the power I suggest without referendum, then the canal sinking fund could be applied to canal improvement to the extent of its actuarial surplus of more than \$25,000,000 without adding to the actual debt burden of the State."

"Tending this constitutional change, of course, provision would have to be made out of current revenue for canal construction purposes, but I believe this can be done as rapidly as funds were needed for any other purpose."

Comptroller Prendergast Favors Use of the Sinking Fund.

ALBANY, April 8.—The Senate passed to-day the Thompson bill permitting women to work seventy-two hours a week in canneries during the canning season and permitting the employment of minors at night and on Sundays in canning establishments. The vote was 27 to 15.

Republican Senators Bennett of New York, Elkins and Lawson of Kings, Hill of Birmingham and Mills of New York voted with the Democrats against the measure, while Senator Greiner, Democrat, voted with the Republicans for the bill.

The bill went through the Senate in spite of a vigorous attack by Democratic Leader Robert F. Wagner after the Thompson bill permitting women to work seventy-two hours a week in canneries during the canning season and permitting the employment of minors at night and on Sundays in canning establishments. The vote was 27 to 15.

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72 HOUR WORK WEEK FOR WOMEN VOTED

Senate Passes Bill Also Permitting Night Labor for Minors in Canning.

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